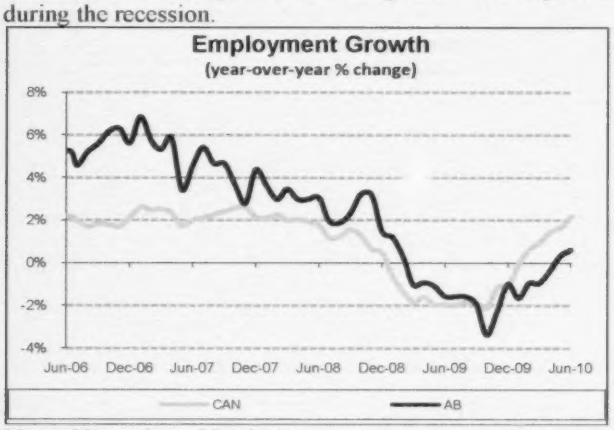
Labour Market

Third consecutive monthly gain in employment …

Employment in Alberta increased for the third consecutive month in June as the province gained 5,700 jobs. However, the increase in employment was entirely in part-time positions which increased by 15,300, offsetting the 15,200 losses of a month earlier. Full-time employment declined by 9,600, partially offsetting the 30,000 full-time jobs gained in May. Despite the increase in employment, the unemployment rate increased slightly to 6.7% in June as people as 7,300 (seasonally adjusted) people entered the labour force.

Nationally, 93,200 jobs were created in June, reducing the unemployment rate to 7.9%, the first time the rate has fallen below 8.0% since January 2009. Since the start of the labour market recovery in July 2009 403,000 jobs have been created, almost completely offsetting the 417,000 jobs lost during the recession.



New Housing Market

Housing starts cool slightly in June…

New housing starts in Alberta declined 8.3% in June to 26,400 units (seasonally adjusted at annual rates). This cooling of activity was largely expected as rising interest rates and tighter mortgage rules begin to affect the market, reducing demand for housing. Even with the decline, housing starts through the first half of 2010 were 101.9% higher than a year ago when starts were near their cyclical low.

Nationally, housing starts declined by 3.1% from a month earlier as the onset of the Harmonized Sales Tax in Ontario and British Columbia played a part in cooling the housing market.

Prices remain stable…

The New House Price Index (NHPI) for Alberta was virtually flat (0.1%) between April and May. Even with the minimal increase, prices in May were 1.6% higher than a year earlier. Nationally, new house prices increased for the eleventh consecutive month in May and were 2.9% higher than a year earlier.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)	
July 9, 2010	96.82
June 25, 2010	96.43
2010-11 YTD	97.15
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
July 8, 2010	$ 75.44
June 24, 2010	$ 76.51
2010-11 YTD	$ 77.70
Nymex Natural Gas C$/MMBtu*	
Near-month Contract	
July 9, 2010	$ 4.63
June 25, 2010	$ 5.03

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Population

Population growth continues to moderate…

Alberta's population was estimated to be 3,724,832 as of April 1, 2010. This represents growth of 0.35% from January 1, 2010 and a continued easing in Alberta's population growth. With net inflows of interprovincial migrants (312) and non-permanent residents (48) moderating, most of the growth was due to strong net international migration (6,758) to the province. Compared to a year earlier, population in Alberta was 1.6% higher, the lowest annual growth rate in nearly 14 years but still above the Canadian average of 1.2%.

Rigs Drilling

Drilling activity recovers from seasonal lows…

With the end of "spring breakup," the average number of rigs drilling in Alberta was 118 in June, a 111.1% increase from May.Drilling activity is up 46.1% through the first half of the year compared to the same period a year ago.

Building Permits

Value of permits declines in May…

The value of building permits issued in May in Alberta declined by 28.6% (seasonally adjusted) from a month earlier to just over $820 million. This level was 30.2% lower than a year ago, the first year-over-year decline in the value of building permits in seven months. The decline was due to a large fall in the value of non-residential building permits (-54.4%) from the previous month.

Nationally, the value of building permits was down 10.8% from April to just under $6.0 billion.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2008	2009	2010YTD*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Population[1] (000's) (level) NEW!	3,596	3,688	3,707	3,712	--	--	3,725	--	--
% change	2.4	2.6	2.1	1.9	--	--	1.6	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level) NEW!	15,317	23,006	-6,832	-2,780	--	--	312	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level) NEW!	20,039	20,074	1,477	4,720	--	--	6,758	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level) NEW!	18,536	19,058	-4,332	-1,425	--	--	48	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's) NEW!	2,013	1,988	1,984	1,988	1,973	1,969	1,979	1,994	2,000
% change	2.8	-1.3	-0.5	-1.6	-1.0	-1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.6
Unemployment Rate (%) NEW!	3.6	6.6	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.5	7.4	6.6	6.7
Participation Rate (%) NEW!	74.7	74.3	73.3	73.4	73.0	73.2	73.4	73.2	73.3
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	923.21	950.13	983.09	963.38	985.99	993.04	989.93	--	--
% change	6.0	2.9	2.5	1.6	2.1	3.0	5.7	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	3.1	-0.1	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.1	--
Excluding food and energy	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	0.9	--
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[2] (quarterly)	13.2	-9.8	-5.0	--	--	-5.0	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	11.5	-11.3*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Crops	26.7	-22.9*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Livestock	2.1	-0.8*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's) NEW!	29.2	20.0	29.5	24.2	28.2	33.9	35.6	28.8	26.4
% change	-39.6	-31.6	101.9	55.1	139.0	164.8	176.0	101.4	30.0
New Housing Price Index NEW!	0.7	-9.0	-0.6	-3.6	-1.4	-0.2	1.0	1.6	--
Edmonton	1.0	-11.2	-2.7	-6.5	-3.3	-2.4	-1.0	-0.1	--
Calgary	0.6	-6.7	1.6	-0.6	0.4	2.0	2.9	3.1	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	351.4	340.5	353.4	344.3	348.2	357.9	359.9	356.7	--
% change	-1.5	-3.1	7.3	6.4	5.1	10.3	7.7	7.1	--
Edmonton	330.8	319.1	329.0	322.7	327.6	341.4	332.1	321.0	--
% change	-2.0	-3.5	5.1	-0.7	2.6	11.0	8.7	4.4	--
Calgary	401.1	384.3	398.2	386.4	395.1	398.2	401.3	410.4	--
% change	-2.9	-4.2	7.1	5.5	5.2	9.0	6.4	9.2	--
Retail Sales[3]	0.2	-8.3	6.1	1.0	6.6	11.2	5.8	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-7.3	-21.7	9.8	-4.8	24.0	15.3	6.9	--	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	6,066	9,986	2097	684	637	776	--	--	--
% change	27.2	64.6	-10.9	-1.7	-9.8	-18.4	--	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling NEW!	236	128	180	287	339	219	62	56	118
% change	-2.1	-45.6	46.1	9.3	42.3	103.5	51.9	76.4	99.0
Goods Exports (customs based)	34.6	-37.3	16.1	2.1	19.6	18.5	27.8	--	--
Energy	42.5	-41.4	29.5	8.1	36.7	32.8	48.8	--	--
Agriculture	32.0	-10.2	-20.4	-10.4	-20.1	-9.6	-27.6	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	17.2	-8.1	-17.3	--	--	-17.3	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	7.0	-21.6	7.0	-0.1	4.7	10.5	13.3	--	--
Wholesale Trade[4]	9.5	-15.9	-0.6	-12.2	-2.1	6.3	5.0	--	--
Building Permits NEW!	-16.5	-14.2	17.4	32.1	69.1	41.4	28.1	-30.2	--
Residential	-31.5	-11.8	94.0	156.4	172.1	91.3	64.6	64.0	--
Non-residential	3.7	-16.3	-28.4	-25.9	4.3	2.0	0.0	-72.3	--
Business Bankruptcies	447	405	105	27	30	48	--	--	--
% change	-0.4	-9.4	-7.9	-30.8	-31.8	54.8	--	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

[2] Average of Calgary and Edmonton

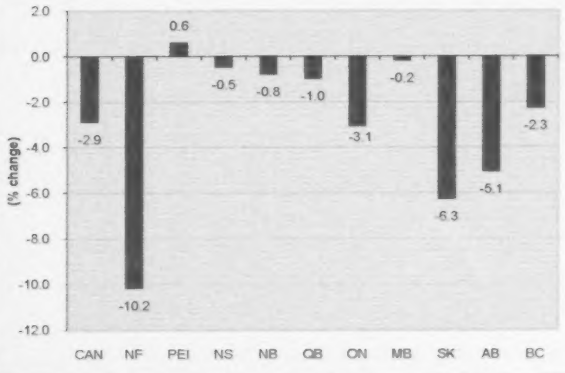
[3] The Retail Sales series was revised on April 23, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

[4] The Wholesale Trade series was revised on April 21, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

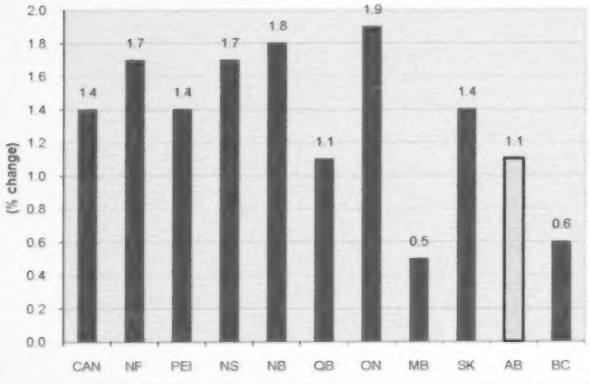
Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province

Real GDP Growth
(2009 year-over-year growth, preliminary estimate)

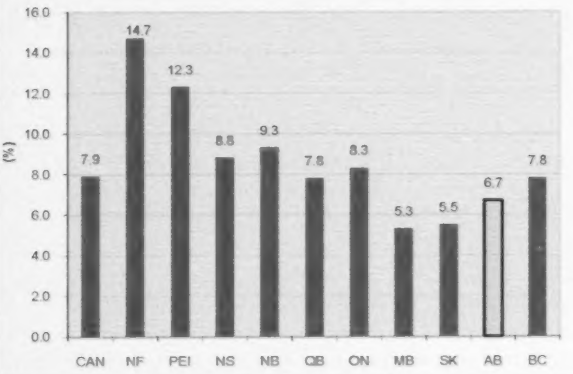


CPI Inflation
(May year-over-year % change)



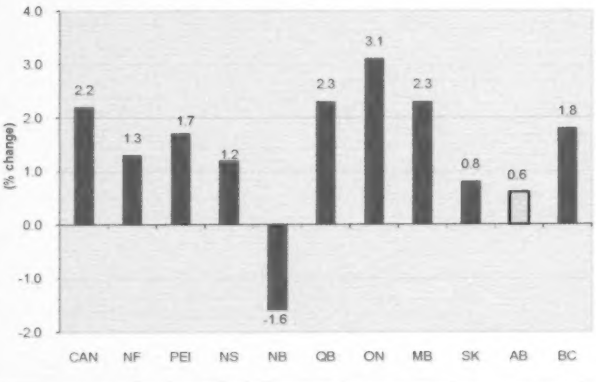
NEW!

Unemployment Rate
(June 2010, Seasonally Adjusted)

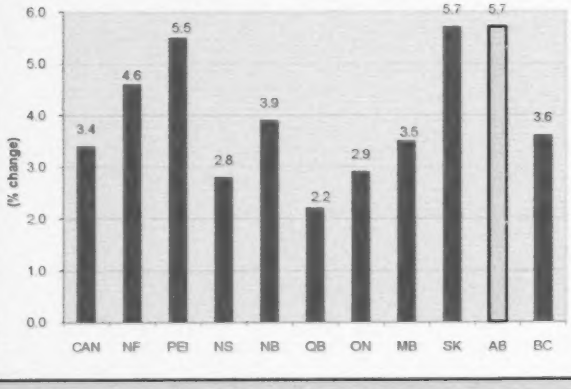


NEW!

Employment
(June year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(April year-over-year growth)



NEW!

Housing Starts
(SAAR June 2010)